

San Francisco Bay Estuary Live Worksheet

1. **What is an estuary?** A semi-enclosed body of water where fresh and salt water meet and mix.
2. **Name two rivers that flow into San Francisco Bay:** Sacramento, San Joaquin, Petaluma, Gallinas creek, and more.
3. **Ocean water is about 35 parts per thousand (ppt) salt. How many ppt do you think the water at China Camp is? Why?** The salinity within the estuary changes with the tide and with the season. The salinity averages between 18 to 30 ppt.
4. **Why is China Camp State Park called China Camp?** Historically there was a shrimp fishing village at in China Camp. Most of the people who lived in the village were immigrants from China. They harvested grass shrimp from the Bay.
5. **What is eelgrass? Why do you think scientists are trying to restore eelgrass at China Camp?** Eelgrass is a flowering plant that lives in shallow water. It is sometimes called seagrass or Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV). Beds of eelgrass provide important foraging and nursery habitat for estuarine animals. China Camp was chosen as a restoration site because there may have been eelgrass beds there at one time, there are large areas of shallow water, and because it is part of the National Estuarine Research Reserve.
6. **What percent of the wetlands in the San Francisco Bay have been filled?**
c. 85-95%
7. **Why were these wetlands filled?** For a variety of reasons, including for development and agriculture.
8. **Have you helped restore at wetland? Would you like to? Why or why not?**